

THE

# SEEDLING

The Newsletter of Burnaby and Region Allotment Garden Association  
BARAGA, Volume 31, Number 1, July 2012

## **2012 BARAGA Picnic Saturday, August 11<sup>th</sup> Start at 3:30 P.M., Garden Contest at 4:00P.M. and Dinner at 5:00 P.M.**

The BARAGA annual picnic is an event that has now become a tradition. It will be held, as usual, on the grass area near the Main Entrance and parking lot. (In the event of rain, it will be postponed until the next Saturday)

All members are welcome, so are your children and guests. Just remember to bring enough food to feed them. To help with preparation it is helpful to know how many to expect, so please sign up on the sheet at the office.

Your contribution to the potluck dinner can be an appetizer, salad, casserole, other main dish, dessert or any combination of these. If your food item contains dairy, meat or fish

please bring it in a cold cooler to be kept in until served.

We often get and especially welcome ethnic treats. Remember to bring whatever you prefer to drink.

BARAGA has some picnic tables, but can always use more tables.

Extra chairs, either folding or plastic garden chairs, are always needed.

BARAGA will provide plates and cutlery (the disposable kind), also coffee, tea and soft drinks.

A main feature of picnic is the garden contest. Bring your flowers, vegetables, fruits grown at BARAGA to the competition and display. Valuable prizes will be awarded in several categories. For other entertainment remember to bring your garden games, bocce ball is popular. If you play an instrument this is a good chance to strut your talent after the dinner and contest.

There will be a door prize draw as well so don't forget to get a ticket from the office when you arrive.

## **Rumors at BARAGA**

There seems to be a great story going around about some road going in on the north side of the property. As far as we know there is no road planned. The City did do a survey of the south, east and part of north property boundary and found that many plot holders are using land that is outside of the BARAGA property lines. The City demanded that we clean up the mess beyond the ditch in the north-west corner or they would send in a crew and do it. Then the City would charge us for the cleanup, between 16,000 and 22,000 dollars was mentioned. We have had work parties every Saturday in order to clean up.

That land along our north boundary is three separate parcels of land and all privately owned. The owners could bring a lawsuit against BARAGA. We should consider ourselves lucky that the City is making us clean it up.

In addition all plot holders that have planted areas or sheds or other structures over any of the property lines will be asked to move back

within the property boundary before the end of this growing season. Plot holders are reminded that the size of plots rented to them is a nominal 20 feet by 50 feet.

The board had a meeting during a May 2012 with a spokesperson from the Burnaby Parks and Recreation department and it was made clear that in order to continue our lease with the City we must operate within the property lines of the survey that was completed in May. The City will be sending us a formal letter regarding this in the near future. As far as the City is concerned we must not be using any property that is outside our boundaries or our lease with the City is in jeopardy and they only have to give us 60 days notice to vacate. If that happens we all lose everything.

**Please do not dump your waste anywhere on BARAGA Property. The garbage bins are there for your use.**

# The Fire Ant Problem

[The European fire ant is an invasive species](#) that was introduced around 1900 into the Boston area. It did not spread extensively for several decades, although it was reported in Quebec back in 1915. Perhaps about 30-40 years ago it began to significantly expand its range and was reported in southern Ontario. In the past 15 years it has moved into the Maritimes (Grodén et al. 2005, Wetterer and Radchenko 2010), although until this identification all localizations of the European fire ant in North America have been below 49° N.

While some ants in British Columbia (e.g., red wood and thatching ants) can be aggressive and bite, they are usually just an annoyance and encountered as single or a few ants. The European fire ant, however, swarms rapidly when disturbed, and stings. Unfortunately it likes to live in lawns and gardens. It can make standing on grass impossible as nests often form at densities greater than 1 per square metre. For example, I counted 4 nests within 1 sq metre in the backyard of one North Vancouver residence in June of 2011.

While the sting isn't as painful as a wasp (for most people), you are often suddenly stung simultaneously by many of these ants before you realize you are in contact with them. Some people, and one example has already emerged in Burnaby, react more seriously and experience painful and significant swelling requiring medical care. If these ants get into parks or campgrounds, they can render them effectively unuseable.



Dr. Robert J. Higgins  
Biological Sciences  
Thompson Rivers University  
British Columbia

# Clubroot

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



Clubroot on cauliflower

**Clubroot** is a common disease of [cabbages](#), [radishes](#), [turnips](#), [canola](#) and other plants belonging to the family [Cruciferae](#) ([mustard](#) family). It is caused by [Plasmodiophora brassicae](#), which was once considered a [slime mold](#) but is now put in the group [Phytopmyxea](#). It has as many as thirteen races. [Gall formation](#) or distortion takes place on latent roots and gives the shape of a club or [spindle](#). In the cabbage such attacks on the roots cause undeveloped heads or a failure to head at all, followed often by decline in vigor or by death. It is an important disease, affecting an estimated 10% of the total cultured area worldwide.

Historical reports of clubroot date back to the 13th century in Europe. In the late 19th century, a severe epidemic of clubroot destroyed large proportions of the cabbage crop in [St. Petersburg](#). The Russian scientist [Mikhail Woronin](#) eventually identified the cause of clubroot as a "plasmodiophorous organism" in 1875, and gave it the name *Plasmodiophora brassicae*.

The potential of cultural practices to reduce crop losses due to clubroot are limited, and chemical treatments to control the fungus are either banned due to environmental regulations or are not cost effective. Breeding of resistant cultivars therefore is a promising alternative.

## Alberta Canola Infestation

In 2003 clubroot was identified in [Alberta](#) as an outbreak in [canola](#) crops in the central area of the province mainly isolated to the [Edmonton](#) area. Clubroot is a soil borne disease. Studies have shown that infestation numbers are highest at common field entrances and decline as you move further into the field, away from the entrance. From these results, it was concluded that infested soil on [farm machinery](#) was increasing spread of the pathogen.

[Liming](#) has been an effective control measure to curb clubroot since the 19th century. This method does not eradicate clubroot but it will slow its development by creating unfavorable conditions. In addition, Calcium and Magnesium can be added to the nutrition profile of the soil to help control clubroot. To get efficient results the field soil [pH] must be kept above 7.5. This takes massive applications to soil in order to effect all of the soil where spores of clubroot are found. Combining lime with one other treatment has shown most effective.

[Crop rotation](#) with non-host crops is another method to help prevent club root. The half life of the disease is about 4 years. Unfortunately, long rotations of approximately 20 years are required in order to be effective in eliminating Clubroot.

The best way to prevent contamination between soil areas is to clean garden tools and boots or shoes that have come in contact with club root before moving to a new plot. Any contaminated soil, equipment and tools must not be moved to any clean-disease free area. The best preventative method is field monitoring. Throughout the season plants should be monitored for early symptoms of club root.

**Remove all plants with clubroot to the garbage bins, do not put them in your compost bins.**

## **Monsanto's Roundup herbicide found to destroy testosterone, male fertility**

by Ethan A. Huff, staff writer

printable article from [naturalnews.com](http://naturalnews.com)

Originally published March 3 2012

(NaturalNews) A recent study published in the *Journal of Toxicology in Vitro* has found that, even at very low levels, Monsanto's herbicide formula Roundup destroys testosterone and ultimately leads to male infertility. The findings add to the more than 25 other diseases known to be linked to Roundup, which include DNA damage, birth defects, liver dysfunction, and cancer.

For their study, Emilie Clair and her colleagues from the *Universite de Caen Basse-Normandie Institute of Biology* in France tested the effects of glyphosate, the active ingredient in Roundup, on testicular cells from rats. Ranging in dilution from one part per million (ppm) to 10,000 ppm, which accounts for varying exposure levels in real life situations, each of the tests revealed undeniable cell toxicity caused by Roundup.

"Because it's a systemic pesticide and sprayed in high doses, produce and fruit and nut trees often take up the poison into the parts of the food we eat," writes Leah Zerbe in a recent *Rodale News* piece on Roundup. "Three easy ways to reduce your exposure? Eat organically grown foods ... adopt organic lawn care techniques in your yard, and start an organic garden to further reduce your exposure to harmful chemicals."

**Sources for this article include:**

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0887233311003341>  
<http://www.rodale.com/roundup-dangers?page=0,0>

Join the Home Depot Garden club it is FREE and will give you lot's of free advice on gardening  
[www.homedepot.ca/GardenClub](http://www.homedepot.ca/GardenClub)

## **BARAGA HALF PLOTS**

The BARAGA board of directors has set aside an area for half plots for rental. The half plots will be approximately five hundred square feet and will be located at the western end of the BARAGA site nearest the parking lot. We are hoping that this will become an area that older members may wish to move to once they feel that they can

no longer keep up a full plot. Also if we have any handicapped members this may be ideal for them as well. The current rental fee for each half plot will be forty dollars plus the ten dollar membership fee. A reduction in the rental fee for volunteer time will not be provided.

Any member currently renting a Full plot may add their name to the internal wait list to let us know they wish to change to rent a half plot by e-mail – [support@baraga.ca](mailto:support@baraga.ca) or by calling Don Hatch at 604-842-8571 and leave a message.

## **Structures at BARAGA**

All structures on your BARAGA plot must be safe and well maintained. There are regulations covering the size, height, and location on your plot. All structures must be easy to remove and **no permanent materials** like concrete can be used for footings or walls. Safety concerns must also be taken into consideration for greenhouses and this means - NO GLASS as this is a hazard.

Also no hazardous protrusions that stick out into a pathway (eye poking and impaling hazard).

The maximum areas for structures are: greenhouse 100 ft<sup>2</sup>, shed 50 ft<sup>2</sup>, maximum heights are: 7 feet tall from the pathway level, fences 30" tall. It is best to locate high structures on the east side of the plot or in plot centre to prevent shadowing neighbours plots. All structures must be kept back an additional 6" from pathways (for unimpeded path access). The 6 inches back rule applies to all parts of a structure including the roof line. Building Approval must be applied for from the BARAGA directors *in writing* of your plans to build or modify major structures on your garden plot. You may be required to remove, upgrade or alter any structure deemed not to comply with BARAGA policies.

"Structures" include greenhouses, sheds, and fences plus other built units such as garden bed framing, compost containers/frames, cold frames, plant support stakes/frames/trellis, etc. For information regarding allowable structures, please read the BARAGA Handbook section 11. Remember that you plot is approximately 20' x 50'

and you cannot extend by marginal cultivation. Also please refer to the monthly minutes for updates regarding policy updates.

## **Volunteering**

Did you know that by volunteering for 6 hours or more per year you can get a reduction of your plot rental fee. Work parties on Saturday mornings from 9 - 12 are now underway.

**Garden hoses**- All hoses are to be kept within your plot boundaries (when not in use) not on paths as they are a tripping hazard. No hose holding device may protrude into a pathway as this is a hazard. Watering of your plot is not to be left unattended. Water is the most expensive item in the BARAGA budget. Please do your part in conserving water.

## **More Volunteers Needed**

BARAGA needs volunteers in order to maintain structures, equipment and keep things looking good. Volunteers who put in a minimum of six hours per year are given a reduction of their fees the following year.

We need members who are capable of fixing wheelbarrows, doing carpentry work, doing plot inspections, Parks maintenance, finding or writing articles for the newsletter and general work parties. Repairing wheelbarrows is generally fixing flat tires and occasionally replacing a nut or painting our name on the sides.

Carpentry work may be anything a carpenter would do in his or her normal duties.

Plot inspections are done once a month on the first Saturday and normally take about one hour to complete. There is a form that has to be filled out and the work is done by teams of two members for each portion of the garden.

Parks maintenance is generally done in the Spring and requires raking the small tree branches that drop during the winter months and taking them to the dumpsters. During the year there may be times when some additional work is needed.

The newsletter is usually published four times a year and volunteers to contribute articles should be able to produce one legal sized page for

three newsletters during the year in order to qualify for a fee reduction. General work parties covers anything that need to be taken down, cleaned up, or removed from the garden. Work parties are a good time to meet fellow gardeners and discuss your garden problems or successes or enquire about something new you may want to try out while working for your fee reduction.

If you wish to volunteer please e-mail [support@baraga.ca](mailto:support@baraga.ca) or drop a note into the box at the office or contact any director. Please leave your name, plot number and phone number as well as what you wish to volunteer for. Thank you.

**Views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of BARAGA.**

**To contact any BARAGA board member just send an e-mail to [support@baraga.ca](mailto:support@baraga.ca)**